Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service
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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending August 27, 2006, cooler temperatures and showers continued to improve soybean conditions and provide moisture for fall wheat seeding, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistic Service, Nebraska Field Office. Some irrigation systems have been shut off as a result of the recent rains and advanced crop maturity. Producers were busy cutting dryland corn for silage and getting ready for the fall harvest.

Weather Summary: Triple digit highs made their way back into three of the eight districts early last week. Temperatures averaged one degree above normal for the state. The Northwest District saw the most rainfall with an average of over three quarters of an inch. The Southeast is the only district with above average precipitation for the growing season.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending August 27, 2006

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Aver-Age
	Percent			
Topsoil				
Very Short	26	29	7	32
Short	30	25	30	36
Adequate	43	44	61	32
Surplus	1	2	2	0
Subsoil				
Very Short	38	36	17	40
Short	37	39	29	34
Adequate	25	25	53	26
Surplus	0	0	1	0
Days Suitable	6.1	4.5	5.1	5.9

Field Crops Report: Corn conditions rated 7 percent very poor, 13 poor, 27 fair, 38 good, and 15 excellent. Irrigated fields rated 75 percent good or excellent while dryland fields declined and rated 19, both below year ago levels. Ninety-four percent of corn was in the dough stage, even with last year and near the average of 92. Sixty-eight percent of the corn had reached the dent stage, near last year's 66 and ahead of the 57 average. Four percent of the corn was mature. This is near last year's 3 and 5 average.

Soybean conditions improved and rated 3 percent very poor, 12 poor, 33 fair, 39 good, and 13 excellent, below last year. Twelve percent were turning color, near last year's 14 and 13 average.

Alfalfa conditions showed limited improvement and rated 15 percent very poor, 23 poor, 33 fair, 26 good, and 3 excellent. This rating continues to be well below last year. Alfalfa third cutting was 91 percent complete, near last year's 90 and ahead of the 83 average. Alfalfa fourth cutting was 5 percent complete. This is behind last year's 9, but near the 3 average.

Sorghum conditions rated 4 percent very poor, 10 poor, 36 fair, 39 good, and 11 excellent, which is still below last year. Ninety-six percent of the sorghum was headed. This is below last year's 98 but ahead of the 93 average. Forty-five percent of the sorghum was turning color, near last year's 44 and ahead of the 36 average.

Thirty-seven percent of the dry beans were turning color. This is ahead of last year's 26 and the average of 27. Eight percent of the dry beans had started dropping leaves. This is below last year's 11 and average of 12. Dry bean conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 6 poor, 32 fair, 57 good, and 5 excellent.

Producers had 2 percent of the winter wheat seeded. This is ahead of last year and average.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending August 27, 2006

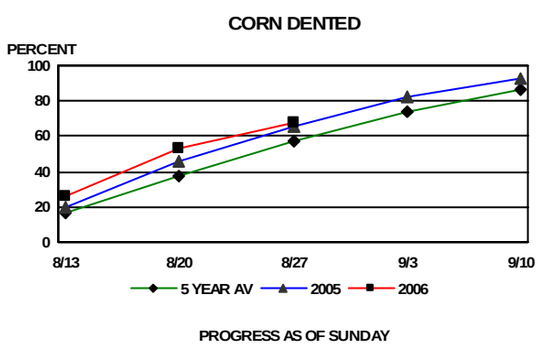
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Aver-age
	Percent			
Alfalfa 3rd Cutting	91	78	90	83
Alfalfa 4th Cutting	5	0	9	3
Corn Dough	94	90	94	92
Corn Dent	68	53	66	57
Corn Mature	4	1	3	5
Dry Beans Turning Color	37	13	26	27
Dry Beans Dropping Leaves	8	3	11	12
Sorghum Headed	96	90	98	93
Sorghum Turning Color	45	24	44	36
Soybeans Turning Color	12	4	14	13
Winter Wheat Seeded	2	0	0	1

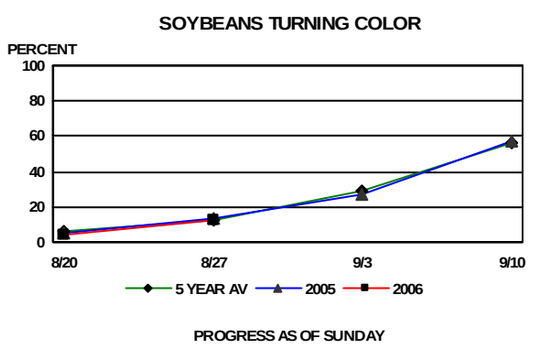
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending August 27, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-Lent
			Percent		
Alfalfa	15	23	33	26	3
Corn	7	13	27	38	15
Dry Beans	0	6	32	57	5
Sorghum	4	10	36	39	11
Soybeans	3	12	33	39	13

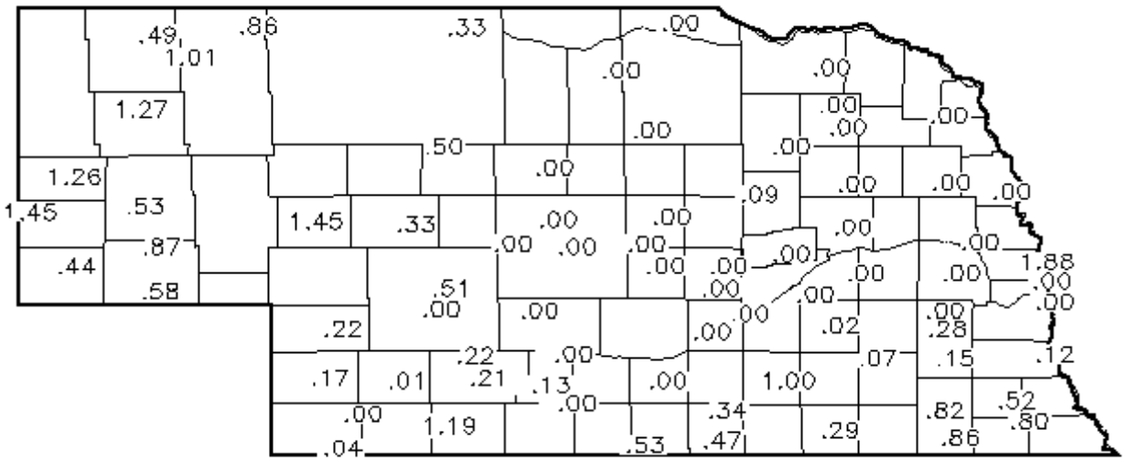
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions declined and rated 35 percent very poor, 31 poor, 26 fair, 8 good, and 0 excellent. In dry areas where pastures were insufficient, cattle were being grazed on alfalfa fields, summer annual crops, and drought damaged corn fields.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments can be found at: *http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/cmts_cur.htm*





Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. August 27, 2006



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – August 27, 2006

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.82	.23	.01	.00	.13	.26	.25	.62
Total since April 1	7.93	9.77	12.60	11.47	16.33	10.60	14.67	18.61
Normal since April 1	11.55	14.27	16.33	15.53	17.29	13.72	15.37	17.96
Total as % of normal	70%	68%	77%	73%	94%	77%	95%	103%

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, August 27, 2006

	Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	100	50	67	-1	105	2229	2163
	Scottsbluff	99	50	69	+1	123	2389	2157
	Sidney	100	51	70	+1	123	2312	2232
NC	Ainsworth	100	56	71	0	135	2443	2447
	Arthur	101	53	69	-2	119	2355	2384
	O'Neill	95	54	72	+4	142	2450	2485
NE	Concord	93	54	72	0	148	2503	2568
	Elgin	96	55	71	0	144	2494	2530
	West Point	93	56	72	-1	150	2557	2668
C	Grand Island	92	55	72	+1	148	2642	2493
	Lexington	91	53	70	-1	136	2688	2449
	Ord	96	53	72	+1	143	2559	2481
EC	Central City	93	51	72	0	148	2619	2538
	Lincoln	94	62	75	+2	170	2853	2733
	Mead	90	57	72	-1	153	2658	2724
SW	Champion	100	51	70	-1	126	2489	2397
	Dickens	99	48	69	-1	124	2521	2420
	McCook	101	52	72	+1	138	2659	2435
SC	Minden	90	56	71	0	145	2645	2466
	Red Cloud	94	60	74	+3	162	2764	2519
	Smithfield	89	54	70	-1	136	2599	2455
SE	Beatrice	91	60	74	0	161	2739	2733
	Clay Center	89	58	71	0	146	2579	2518
	Nemaha	92	64	76	+2	171	2903	2737

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office